PROCESSION OF A CHINESE VICEROY ON THE WAY TO A FOREIGN LEGATION.

THE TRAIL OF BLOOD IN CHINA'S HISTORY.

THE Chinese have been brutally frank in chronicling the misdeeds of their sovereigns, for even the reigning rulers could not pervert the statements of their historians, which were not published until the dynasties of which they wrote had ended.

One of the first instances mentioned of punishment meted out to negligent officials was the famous case of Hi and Ho, astronomers, who went on a spree and omitted to notify their emperor of an imminent eclipse of the moon. It, therefore, took him unawares, so that he could not avert the impending disaster by having his archers shoot off arrows at the big dragon which was devouring the sun, and he ordered them to turn their weapons against the unlucky Hi and Ho, who were promptly executed. The Chinese astronomers knew what to expect after that, for an imperial edict proclaimed that "when they give notice of an eclipse too soon, let them be put to death without any forgiveness, and when after the time let the same thing happen to them."

That event occurred about 2159 B. C., and a thousand years later the imperial heart had not softened, apparently, for mention is made of one Chow Sin (perhaps a remote ancestor of the modern "Ah Sin"), who was the first to use ivory chopsticks and who was so cruel that all his subjects feared him. He became infatuated with an abandoned woman, and to please her invented several kinds of torment, with which he experimented upon his victims. One was called the "heater." This was a piece of redhot metal, which the unfortunates were compelled to hold in their hands. Another was known as the "roaster," which consisted of a well greased copper pillar over a pit full of burning charcoal. On this the condemned man was compelled to walk, and when his feet slipped he fell into the fire and was roasted alive, to the great delight of Chow Sin and his inamorata. In order to settle a discussion as to which had the most marrow in their bones, young men or old men, the king caused a number to have their legs broken, and these are the first victims mentioned as having directly suffered in the cause of science.

Accustomed as they were to deeds of cruelty, the Chinese of every age have reveled in bloodshed and shown an amazing insensibility to suffering. From the earliest times also they have displayed an insensate hatred of foreigners, who from the first they termed "barbarians." It was in the reign of Muh, about 1600 B. C., that the decrees were enacted known as the "five great punishments," which were cutting off the nose, ears and feet, branding and death. A thousand different kinds of crime were punishable by the first two, 500 by the third, 300 by the fourth, while there were 200 which incurred the death penalty. But all these could be commuted by money payments, according to a published scale, and this system of compounding with crime has operated to the enrichment of the mandarins and the corruption of the courts up to the present time.

One of the greatest fighters of his age was the Emperor Wu Ti, who was victorious in more than 70 battles, but who was so superstitious that he always carried with him a famed magician, Wu, being desirous of receiving a message direct from the gods, the magician at last told him he would find it inside a certain cow, which he ordered killed. The message was found as foretold, but as it was in the magician's handwriting, Wu Ti had him killed, too.

In the third century, A. D., there arose a certain queen whose acts proclaimed her a worthy predecessor of the present empress dowager of China, for she set up and pulled down rulers galore, starved her rivals to death and murdered an uncle of the emperor because he opposed her. She was finally overthrown, and her husband took his revenge upon the mandarins by confiscating the wealth of Sun-sin, who was the Croesus of that time.

About the middle of the fifth century China was ruled by a wily emperor who, when opposed by herds of trained elephants on the Tonquin border, put them to flight by setting up a row of wooden lions, which caused them to turn tail and charge upon their owners. He it was who massacred all the Buddhist priests in his empire and destroyed their idols and their temples. But he was no more enlightened than the others, for his soldiers, when they marched through the enemy's country, impaled tender babes on their pikes and gloated over their agonized writhings while held high in air. A successor of his, a hundred years later, while suppressing a conspiracy against his throne, seized the ringleaders and boiled them in a caldron of oil.

Early in the seventh century a rebellion was suppressed by the reigning emperor, who murdered more than 30,000 people in cold blood. The most sanguinary insurrection that ever devastated China occurred toward the end of the ninth century at the instigation of Li K'eh-yung, the "One Eyed Dragon," when, it is said, 8,000,000 people perished, and blood flowed for a thousand miles. And so the tale of blood went on through the centuries, human life being held of no account. In the last decade of the fourteenth century the Emperor Hung Wu exterminated a noble family and sentenced to cruel deaths 15,000 men and women merely on suspicion of plotting against his throne.

All the emperors of China were chips off the same block, if the historical records are true—all cruel, relentless, merciless. Even so late as 1813, during the reign of Kia K'ing, a conspirator who came near to seizing the emperor suffered death by the horrible process of "slicing," which consists in cutting off small portions of the culprit's body, face or limbs at stated intervals, until he literally dies by inches. This same Kia K'ing sent 20,000 rebels to the execution block, and it was he who, in 1816, because of some trifling breach of court etiquette, refused to see Lord Amherst and his embassy from England and compelled them to retrace their steps to the coast in deep humiliation.

Although the Chinese looked upon all outside peoples as "barbarians" and their hatred of them was deeply ingrained, they had not made them objects of attack except in certain sporadic cases of local origin. Always, however, there existed the hatred of the native convert, and many thousands of Chinese Christians have perished by the sword.

When war broke out between England and China, about 60 years ago, the Chinese promptly offered rewards for the heads of all Englishmen captured. A party of six foreigners was murdered near Canton in December, 1847, and stray travelers were put to death wherever found; but for all these outrages the government was sternly called to account and made to pay indemnities. During the Taiping rebellion the cruelties practiced were of the most horrible description, both by the rebels and the imperial troops, and proved conclusively that mercy has no part in the Chinese composition.

One of the first official acts of Kwang-Su, the present emperor, was to order an indemnity of 200,000 taels for the murder of an Englishman who was killed in a remote part of the empire, followed by a proclamation that foreigners should everywhere receive protection.

In 1860, 26 English subjects were taken and tortured on the road from Tien-tsin to Peking. Thirteen of them died from their injuries. The Chinese government disavowed all responsibility for or connection with this act, as it did for the later horrible massacre at Tien-tsin, but it was forced to award compensation and punish the alleged perpetrators. The Tien-tsin outrage was the first attempt upon the lives of unarmed foreigners which had reached the proportions of a massacre in many years. It took place in June, 1870, but a few months after the death of Mr. Burlingame, who was then on his famous mission of peace in behalf of China to foreign lands. It may have been occasioned indirectly by the inevitable revulsion to which Chinamen are subject whenever they have made any concession to foreign opinion, but was directly owing to the fanaticism of the lower class people of Tien-tsin.

As many of the children in the foundling asylum conducted by the Sisters of Mercy had died of an epidemic, it was given out that they had been murdered for the sake of their eyes, which were to be transmuted into silver. This absurd story was believed, and the fanatics attacked and destroyed the orphanage, cathedral and French consulate, murdering 18 French, including several Sisters of Mercy and two Russians. France at that time was unable to exact reparation, but by imperial edict the French were paid 400,000 taels as compensation, 20 of the chief rioters were executed and a deputation of Chinese proceeded to Paris to make a formal and humble apology.

After the war with Japan, in 1895, the Chinese government did not afford sufficient protection to strangers, particularly missionaries, and several outrages occurred. Our minister at Peking requested a guard to protect the legation, and 50 marines were sent from United States war vessels, while early in the war the four great powers had made an agreement that their forces should protect each other's citizens or unite for common defense if necessary.

It was in January of the present year, shortly after the outbreak, that Mr. Brooks of the north China mission was killed by Boxers at Tai-an-fu, being the first martyr of this uprising. Later two others, the Rev. H. V. Norman and Rev. Charles Robinson, were murdered at Yung Ch'in, and in addition thousands of native converts have been reported killed at various missions.

TRUMAN L. JAMIESON.

THE NARROW NANKOW PASS.

About a day's journey north of Peking lies that famous Nankow pass in the mountains, through which the Tartars invaded China and eventually carried their arms triumphantly all over the country. The road thither, which is wild and broken all the way, is traversed by hordes of camels, mules and horses, for it is the great caravan route toward Siberia. Over this road the Russian army may march, if it carries out its scheme of invasion in connection with the Chinese disturbance.

The Nankow pass is sometimes called in Russia the northwestern gateway to China, and in addition to being a natural pass through the mountain range it is the ancient gateway through the great wall, that mighty engineering work 1,500 miles in length and more than 2,000 years old. The pass, which is 15 miles in length, is rugged and grand in its wild scenery, passing most of the way through a sort of canyon and beneath great, frowning cliffs.

Beyond the pass lie the great grass plains of Mongolia, where the Chinese horses are raised and whence, centuries since, came the invading Mongols under Genghis Khan and his successors, who changed the character of China.

A REAL JAPANESE DINNER.

To a European, given to stiff joints and corpulency, a Japanese dinner is a tedious experience. But a real Japanese dinner, including chopsticks, lacquer trays and tiny cups, is a thing never to be forgotten.

The guests remove their shoes on entering the house and, except when provided with a pair of cotton overshoes, must spend the evening in stockinged feet, unless happily the host has an extra pair. The wife of a Japanese gentleman does not preside at his table unless there are ladies in the party, but appears with the tea and sweetmeats which always precede a dinner. She merely greets the guests and appears again only when the goodbys are said. Silken cushions are scattered about the floor, and the guests are arranged according to rank, for the Japanese are, of course, great sticklers for form and ceremony. Little tables, some six inches high, are placed before each one, and barefooted waiting maids in graceful and prettily tinted kimonos bring in lacquer trays with several tiny covered bowls. Before leaving the trays on the tables they set them on the floor and, dropping on their knees, make their best bow, touching their foreheads to the floor.

The host sets an example by removing the covers from the tiny bowls, and the guest, doing likewise, finds an assortment of food quite new and generally most distasteful. Mustering up much skill, one attempts getting the food on chopsticks from the tables to one's mouth. The first few times most of it falls on the floor or in one's lap. The wretched sticks wabble and cross each other as if focused. When almost desperate, the good host is apt to come to the rescue by suggesting lifting the bowls and, with the aid of a chopstick, shoveling the food in, as one would potatoes into a barrel.

In each course there are half a dozen dishes, and the host tells what they are. First, a bean soup; chestnuts boiled and crushed; fish, picked fine and rolled into little balls and baked; raw fish, cut into thin slices and covered with ice. This is dipped into rich sauce called soy, and is really very good. Little cups of warm sake, the native brandy made of rice, are served with each course. Napkins and bread are unknown quantities.

The second course is a small fish boiled whole; bits of fowl boiled with potatoes or lotus root; a salad of onions; peas and beans, with a few leaves of lettuce; sea snails served with eggplant mashed, and a thick soup made of fish and vegetables, with mushrooms for a relish.

The third course is a curry of rice and picked vegetables, and for a fourth and final course you have a sort of vermicelli served with soy and a sweet liqueur called mirin; shiruko, rice cakes, seaweed and confectionery of all sorts, which are very sweet and tasteless.

During the dinner each guest rises and proposes the health of the host and one other guest until the whole party is disposed of. This custom is rather hard on the guests, for sake is fiery stuff, and goes to one's head more quickly than brandy. To make matters worse, after one has drunk the health of all the company, it is customary to drink the health of the waitresses, who bow their foreheads to the floor in acknowledgment. When all is over, one feels very hungry and stiff in the joints.

A States' Building At Washington.

THE people of the country at large and the citizens of Washington particularly are just now wondering what scheme or ceremony will be decided upon to fittingly celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of Washington as the nation's capital.

The centennial committee of governors outlined a programme for this purpose some time ago, a part of which was the carrying out of Architect Cobb's suggestion to cut a grand "Centennial avenue" through the Mall or Central park along its northern edge, and that would leave between it and the first street north of it a strip of land a block or so wide that congress was to dedicate as sites for future buildings for government use.

Legislation appropriating a sum sufficient to complete preliminary surveys for this has been enacted, and next session that grand avenue may be ordered completed.

About a year ago, and in connection with this scheme, I suggested that a great states' building be built in this city and that a fitting ceremony to help celebrate the centennial would be the laying of its cornerstone, or, at least, the very active agitation of such a building project.

The lot I have in mind for that building would be the present Central market (United States government property) site, added to the small part of the Mall between the market and the proposed grand avenue—a lot of 500 by nearly 900 feet, bounded by the new avenue, Pennsylvania avenue, Seventh and Ninth streets, northwest.

A word as to the purposes of this building.

The states are represented here by their senators and their representatives at the capitol. The functions of these bodies are legislative, yet the capitol to all intents and purposes is a federal institution, and the sovereign American people as individuals have little to say or do there. We keep consuls in pretty nearly every city of importance in the world, but in this capital, the people's very own, there is no one of their servants charged with any such duty. What I suggest is a grand states' building—not a Federal institution in any sense, but a people's building, where every man from every state may feel at home—built for his comfort and in his interest principally.

The plans for such a building should be made by the very best architect in the land, and he should be chosen in an honestly managed, clean competition open to all the architects of the country.

The site is a magnificent one—a grand opportunity for an architectural display, fronting, as it does, one face on the proposed government thoroughfare and one upon Pennsylvania avenue, the principal commercial artery of the city. It is directly opposite where it is proposed to erect a mammoth union railway station, and therefore will be about the first thing one sees upon reaching town and should also be every stranger's objective point.

On the first floor, fronting the new avenue, there should be the states' rooms, also great reception rooms, checkrooms, toilets and a bureau of inquiry, where guides may be obtained to "do" the city, and also the names of hotels, boarding houses and all other useful information. The states' rooms would fill the first and pretty nearly all the second story, these rooms to be regular offices for each state—a meeting place for all visitors from that state, a sort of "home for the wayfarer," in charge of a state officer noted for his good humor and patience, whose duty it would be to be of as much service to his co-citizens as possible.

There would be registers in each room, where every one from that state would give all the information concerning his whereabouts and the duration of his visit that he might see fit; a post-office, where letters may be addressed to its care, the principal newspapers of that state kept on file, writing material, etc.—in fact, a room for the particular comfort and use of every one visiting the nation's capital from that state.

These large rooms would open into a grand hall, lighted from above the second story and the full size of the light court of the building. In this hall or "states' court," there might be portioned off sections for the display of exhibits from each state, its products, etc., but it would be chiefly a great lounging room, where people from the four corners of our country might meet, get acquainted and feel at home. Off this court and closed from it by drop screens in ordinary times would be the auditorium, fronting on Pennsylvania avenue. A great, galleried amphitheater, seating 8,000 people at least, and seven wide exits and broad stairs would allow of quickly emptying its crowds directly to the street level and in immediate proximity to all the car lines. This auditorium would be for the use of all the great conventions assembling here, each to arrange a long time ahead for dates, etc., with the board of control.

Scattered over the various floors would be the congressional committee rooms. The reason for their being in this building is that, although congress when in session meets at noon, until then the congressmen are at their offices, scattered through the business blocks of the city or in their committee rooms at or about the capitol. Having these committee rooms near their offices would be a wonderful convenience.

These men are here in the interests of their states; it is but just that those states furnish them an office where other than the purely legislative business of the state may be attended to. Every day, too, there is growing a greater objection to their writing letters and attending to their constituents in the halls of congress.

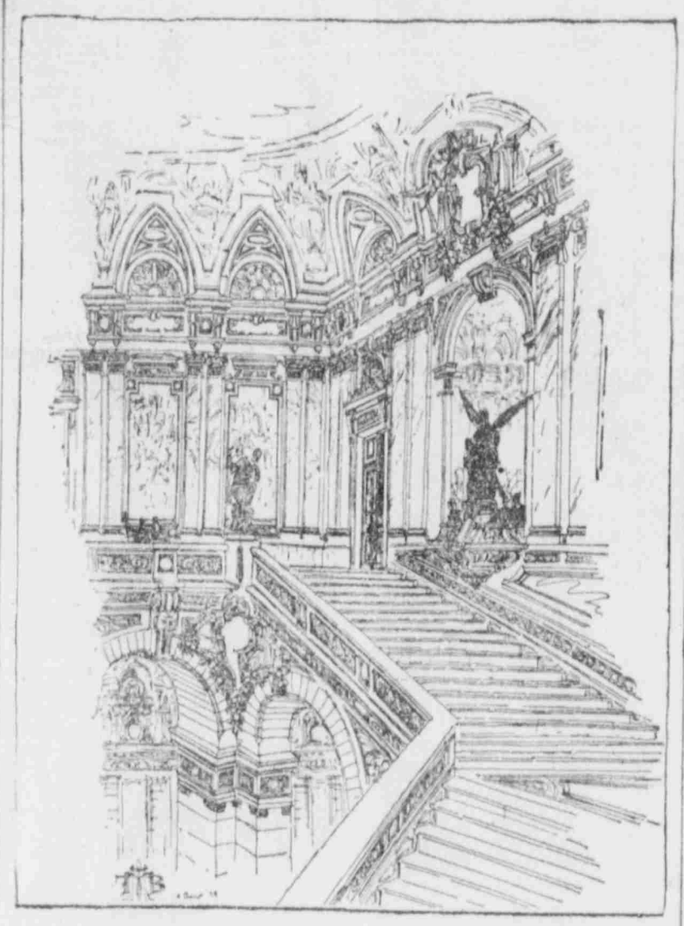
This building would be splendidly situated for their purposes, just midway between the capitol and the big departments. While each congressman would have a workroom, ample reception rooms, parlors and waiting rooms would be provided, where they could give ear to their constituents' appeals and indulge in social converse.

In the top story there might be a restaurant, barber and bath arrangements and other features of club life. We owe it to our congressmen to make their life here as comfortable as possible. It may also tend to improve, or, rather, to keep up, the present high standard of legislation.

It ought to be the object of every state to keep on file in its quarters in this building a mass of useful facts and figures about its commerce, etc., from which its representatives might get any data at a moment's notice that they may need. This would ultimately create an exchange bureau here, where one might find out anything he wants to know about any or every state. It would tend to unify the states, keep them in as close touch socially and commercially as the capitol does politically. To the nation as a whole one can readily see how infinitely more beneficial such a building with such purposes would be than is even our beautiful library of congress.

According to my plan, when the screens are raised the auditorium and the grand hall may be thrown together, the exhibits, desks, etc., in the latter lowered to the storerooms in the basement, and you would have one vast hall capable of accommodating 25,000 people for great conventions and assemblies. You would decorate this room every four years and have an inaugural ball there that would be something to remember. As it is now, the work of an entire branch of the government has to be virtually stopped for a couple of weeks in order that its building may be prepared for that ceremony. Surely we are wealthy enough to afford the luxury of one such hall, owned by us jointly, at the Federal capital of our country!

F. W. FITZPATRICK.



FACADE AND GRAND STAIRWAY OF THE STATES' BUILDING SUGGESTED BY F. W. FITZPATRICK.

AN ASTONISHED DUKE.

The Duke of Cambridge and his friends have many stories to tell of his recent stay in Rome. One of his experiences is specially characteristic of all the parties concerned. On the occasion of a visit to the Vatican the duke, hearing from a friend that it was proper to talk Latin there, brushed up a few phrases and passwords. The Vatican, on its part, was equally punctilious. All guards who could speak English were ordered to the front. The chamberlains of English nationality or speech were required to attend, and the pope himself practiced the English sentences he had learned from Mr. Neld, an English resident in Brussels, 50 years ago, much priding himself on the vernacular of his "Seat down."

"Well, I'm"— something or other.

The gallant duke, when he arrived at the outer portals of the Vatican, was addressed by a guard, who said, "This way, your royal highness." The duke started with relief; he was rid, for the moment, of his Latin. The same experience met him at each turn, and in the anterooms it was repeated. Reaching at last the door of the pope's private apartment, the duke was met by a monsignor whose mother was English and whose own accent is native, as he offered to take his royal highness' hat. "Well, I'm"— something or other, blurted out the astounded visitor. But it was a word the pope did not remember to have learned from Mr. Neld.

MR. BALFOUR AND THE GOLF CLUB.

A rather amusing story is going the rounds in London of Mr. A. J. Balfour and the Cassiobury Golf club. The other day Mr. Balfour and Lord George Hamilton went down to have a game of golf on the Cassiobury golf links, near Watford. There is rather a sensible rule in force at this club which enables members to always get into a cab which is going to the club from the station by paying sixpence. The rule, however, on this occasion was the cause of rather a surprise for a golfer and the two right honorable gentlemen.

The expectant golfers had ensconced themselves in their cab and were just driving off when an excited looking individual, with golf clubs, rushed out of the station and stopped the carriage, merely uttering a mumbled phrase about there being room for another, and got in. Mr. Balfour and his friend were considerably surprised, as they were unaware of the rule. But when they arrived at the end of the short journey and their fellow traveler calmly offered Mr. Balfour sixpence as his share of the fare, their surprise quickly changed to amazement. However, when the bylaw was explained Mr. Balfour not only laughed at their experience, but commended so exceedingly convenient an arrangement.

WHERE POLICEMEN ARE BUSY.

Japan has a police force modeled something after the French system. In various places throughout Tokyo there are small kabanchos, which are something like the British sentinel boxes, but larger.

Three men are attached to each box daily. One remains inside, resting, while another stands at the door, and the third patrols a beat and returns at regular intervals to the box. Stations are changed every eight hours. After 24 hours' work the three policemen are given the same length of time to rest, and three other men are sent to the box.

During their "off" days the men are employed in taking a census, making reports regarding the condition of streets, bridges, embankments, drains and cemeteries. They also report weddings, births, deaths, theatrical performances and the presence of suspicious people.

THINGS THAT ARE TALKED OF.

The Johnsons whose names appear in the Chicago city directory number 5,750, and have a clear majority of 1,350 over the Smiths.

When Robert Herrick, the novelist and professor of English in the University of Chicago, married his first cousin, he had to go to Milwaukee to have the marriage performed, the Illinois laws forbidding the marriage of cousins.

The pineapple crop of Florida is expected to break all previous records. The value of the crop on the east coast alone will be in excess of $300,000.

The pecan crop of Texas promises to be the largest known in many years. Last year's crop was a small one, caused principally by the floods in the Brazos valley, but this year the trees are loaded with nuts. The price is better than usual, owing to the fact that there is no surplus from last year and that the demand for the nut steadily grows. St. Louis is the great market for the Texas nuts, and thence they are distributed all over the world, London, Paris and Naples taking large quantities of them. They are used almost altogether in the confectionery trade.

The Amur, about which we are beginning to hear so much in the Russo-Chinese complications, is one of the four gigantic rivers of Siberia, each of which measures 3,000 miles. The other three, the Obi, Yenesei and Lena, drain northward, but the Amur, a magnificent waterway, runs eastward, defining the modern frontier of Manchuria, and empties into the Pacific. Control of the Amur river gives Russia free communications from the interior with the Pacific, something essential to her policy.

Artificial stone steps are becoming popular in Germany. A design imitating a staircase carpet of any desired color is pressed into the steps when the material of which they are made is still soft. The figures penetrate to a considerable depth and last as long as the steps.

It is said that there are in all New York only ten Japanese women. One of these, Miss Shidzu Naruse, will shortly return to her native town, Kobe, Japan, and there establish a hospital. Miss Naruse was one of 20 young women nurses who received diplomas recently at the New York hospital.

Booker T. Washington, in an address to the people of his race in Savannah recently, said the two things most needed by the negroes of the south were a toothbrush and a bathtub.